

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00313 081140Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

INT-05 OMB-01 LAB-04 /074 W

----- 016091

R 080622Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3247

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 0313

FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 0029 DTD 05 JAN 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 0029

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, IN

SUBJ: CHAS NALA MINE DISASTER

1. CALCUTTA PAPERS FOR JANUARY 2, 4, AND 5 GIVE A RATHER
CONFUSED PICTURE OF RESCUE OPERATIONS AT CHAS NALA. JANUARY 3
STATESMAN CARRIED FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "MINE DEWATERING MAKES
LITTLE PROGRESS" AND REPORTED THAT POLISH PUMPS WERE UN-
SUITABLE FOR THE JOB AND RUSSIAN TECHNICIANS HAD ARRIVED
BUT THEIR EQUIPMENT HAD NOT YET COME. AMRITA SAME DAY
HEADLINES "12 PUMPS ACCELERATE CHAS NALA DEWATERING" BUT
DOES MENTION THAT "TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES" CONTINUE TO
HAMPER OPERATION OF POLISH AND SOVIET PUMPS.

2. SUNDAY JANUARY 4 PAPERS CARRIED LITTLE ON CHAS NALA.
JANUARY 5 PAPERS REPORT THAT POLISH PUMPS HAVE BEEN FLOWN
BACK TO POLAND BUT RUSSIAN PUMPS HAVE ARRIVED AND WILL BE
PUT INTO OPERATION JANUARY 6. PAPERS SAY THAT AS RESULT
OF PUMPING OPERATIONS THE WATER LEVEL IN THE MINE HAS FALLEN
9.29 METERS BUT ADD THAT POINT AT WHICH RESCUE OPERATIONS

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FOR TRAPPED MINERS CAN BEGIN IS STILL ANOTHER 215 FEET DOWN.

AMRITA REPORTS ENGINEERS SEE SOME CHANCE OF SURVIVAL FOR
TRAPPED MINERS; OTHER PAPERS REPORT OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT
MINE WILL BE "DEWATERED" WITHIN A WEEK.

3. A CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN TOLD BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE
JUST COME FROM CHAS NALA MINE SITE THAT FIGURE OF 372 TRAPPED
MINERS, CITED IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND FROM REPORTS, IS
BELIEVED BY LABOR COMMUNITY THERE TO BE VERY MUCH ON THE
LOW SIDE. STORY GOING AROUND AT MINE SITE IS THAT BETWEEN
500 AND 700 MINERS MAY HAVE BEEN TRAPPED IN THE DISASTER.
SOME OF THE TRAPPED ARE SAID TO BE SUBSTITUTE WORKERS WHO
HAVE NEITHER PAY NOR IDENTITY CARDS.
KORN

UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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